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# Bentsen: lift USSR oil equipment ban

WASHINGTON — A CIA report suggests that a 7-year embargo on the sale of oil-drilling equipment to the Soviet Union has proven useless, said Sen. Lloyd Bentsen yesterday as he introduced legislation to lift the embargo, which was imposed after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

"The current controls on the

export of oilfield equipment to the USSR are useless in terms of foreign policy impact and very damaging to a key U.S. industry that is in deep trouble," said Bentsen, (D-Texas).

He said the 1979 embargo has not been observed by other countries, resulting in lost jobs and sales for the United States in general and Texas in particular.

"The futility of these controls has been documented by the Central Intelligence Agency in a study entitled, 'Soviet Needs for Western Petroleum Technology and Equipment,'" said Bentsen. He said the CIA released a declassified version of the report at his request.

The CIA report said 32 of 34 categories of oilfield equipment needed by the USSR are available from other countries and that seven categories are available from non-U.S. sources at levels adequate for Soviet needs. Bentsen said.

The USSR is the largest oil-

field equipment market outside the United States, Bentsen said.

He said his legislation, cosponsored by Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., would maintain some sales restrictions for national security purposes.

Before the embargo, 25 percent of the USSR's imported oilfield equipment was bought from U.S. companies. By 1983, under the restrictions, the U.S. share of the market had dropped to 0.4 percent. •